



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 03/14/2011 Approved Minutes

Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group (DTG)

March 14, 2011 Meeting

Approved at April 11, 2011 Meeting

Present: Kaitlyn O'Connell (co-chair), Miriam Stein (co-chair), Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, David Landskov, Carmen Medeiros, Andy Oram

There was no meeting in February. Minutes from the January meeting were accepted with the stipulation that abbreviations be spelled out.

Miriam explained the background of the civil discourse efforts, including the establishment of a steering committee that would develop disturbance scenarios and proposed courses of action to address these. This preparation would allow agencies to weigh the pros and cons of various options. Charts indicating who would take the lead in a situation have been developed and will be discussed at the next meeting of the group. The Rapid Response team is still in place; however, it is unclear whether this is an action or an information network.

The steering group met in March and will meet again on April 7 at 4 p.m. at Town Hall Annex.

Andy explained "communication strings" as a way to get information quickly. He said a person/group could have an account related to social problems (separate from physical problems such as fire). He will write up some suggestions for effective use of modern communication methodologies and technologies.

Mary reported on the information session for Town Meeting Members (TMMs) conducted by Moderator John Leone. Attended by 26 people, including new and long time TMMs and candidates, the session elicited a rich exchange of questions and responses. Carolyn Parsons has prepared flyers which show precinct vacancies for the April 2011 elections and provide instructions for write-in candidates; she has sent this information to the Arlington Advocate.

DTG would like to increase the diversity of its membership. Miriam asked that Carmen work with Louise Popkin to develop a plan for attracting new members. Current members will call people who indicated an interest in DTG on their Town Surveys.

The Diversity/Disability Job Fair will take place at Town Hall on April 7 from 11-2. Greg Ames is coordinating the Fair. Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters.

The Mass. Partnership for Diversity in Education will hold its spring job fair at the Arlington High School on March 23 from 3-6 p.m. This is an important way to showcase Arlington for people of color who are seeking employment in public schools.

There was discussion about whether to bring a film "What Is Islam?" to Town for public viewing. Both David and Andy mentioned that their church and synagogue offer classes on Islam, and that classes were offered through Arlington Community Education last year.

End.